Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: I want notice.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഓപ്തോമിക്ക് ഡോക്ടർമാർ ഓണറി വർക്കിനു വരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു; അതുപോലെയുള്ള എത്രപേരെ ഓണറി ഡാക്ടർമാരായി എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്? ഓപ്തോമിക്ക് ഹോസ്പിറ്റലിൽ ഓണറി ഡോക്ടർമാരെ മാത്രമെ വെക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളു എന്നുണ്ടോ?

റാവുസാഹിബ് ഡാക്ടർ ടി വർഗ്ഗീസ്സ്: അങ്ങിനെയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അവക്ക് ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനു വല്ല ആലോചനയുമുണ്ടോ?

റാവുസാഹിബ് ഡാക്ടർ ടി. വർഗ്ഗീസ്സ്: ഇപ്പോൾ ആലോചനയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഓപ്തോമിക്ക് ഹോസ്പിറ്റലിൽ പെയിഡ് ഡാക്ടർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവോ?

റാവുസാഹിബ് ഡാക്ടർ ടി. വർഗ്ഗീസ്സ്: ഇല്ല.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: May I know to which hospital the X-Ray of the Civil Hospital was removed.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: It was taken to the Ernakulam General Hospital.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know Sir, whether there is any criterion by which Government decided that some people should be paid and some sould not be paid.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Those people who come on an honorary basis do not get any pay. Those recruited on a paid cadre get their pay.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: പത്തുകൊല്ലത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ സർവ്വീസുള്ള ഓണറി ഡോക്ടർമാരെ ഗവണ്മെണ്ട് സർവ്വീസിലേക്കു എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

റാവുസാഹിബ് ഡോക്ടർ ടി. വർഗ്ഗീസ്സ്: ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കാം; തീർച്ചപറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമപത്രയർ: ഇല്ല എന്നു പറയാമോ?

റാവുസാഹിബ് ഡോക്ടർ ടി. വർഗ്ഗീസ്സ്: അതും വയ്യാ.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know Sir, what is the length of the honorary service of the successful and satisfactorily working Eye Specialist at Trichur?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: 10 years and 2 months, he entered service on 31st Karkadagam 1108.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Have any honorary Doctors, Sir, have, during these ten years been taken to paid cadre ?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Many ?

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: A few.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know Sir, why the case of this Doctor who is admitted to be doing satisfactory work was not considered for being promoted to the paid cadre.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: In a vast majority of cases only seniors to him have been recruited and in this case the Surgeon was unwilling to be recruited to the ordinary grade.

DR. K. B. MENON'S ARREST—PARTICULARS REGARDING

36. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the attention of Government had been drawn to the article in the Daily Edition of the "Mathrubhoomi," dated 10th Mithunam 1118 under the caption "Dr. K. B. Menon's arrest—further details";

(*b*) are not the allegations contained therein true;

(*c*) was it right for the Cochin Police to have acted in the manner alleged in the article in question;

(*d*) was the Commissioner of Police (Cochin) camping on 20th June 1943 at Cheruthuruthi;

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(e) was there not a petition from Dr. K. B. Menon's relatives resident in the house at Pynkulam wherefrom Dr. K. B. Menon was enticed by the Cochin Police giving the details of Dr. Menon being taken from his house and requesting the Government to take action against the D. S. P. Mr. Innocent Pappali ;

(f) what has been done with the petition in (e)?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):*

(a) Yes.
(b) No.
(c) No reply is necessary in view of answer to sub-division (b).
(d) No.
(e) Yes.
(f) It was duly enquired into.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* If the Government have no objection my next question also being on the same matter may be answered along with the Question No. 36.

Mr. President: Yes.

37. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they have received a petition, dated 22nd July 1943 from Konnanath Padmavathi Ammal addressed to the Diwan of Cochin ;

(b) whether the petition aforesaid was not a complaint of kidnapping one Dr. K. B. Menon from Cochin State to British India;

(c) if answer to (a) is in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state what they have done till now in this matter and if nothing has been done till now whether they propose to take any steps in this case?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):*

(a), (b) and (c) It is not in public interest to discuss the contents of the petition under reference. The allegations were however enquired into and found to be incorrect.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know Sir, whether on reading the article mentioned in clause (a) the attention of the Government had not been drawn to the fact that it is under the place of Ernakulam, that this information was supplied by the Ernakulam correspondent,—has not the Government noted that.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammed Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Government have taken note of the article generally without special reference as to where from it emanated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* My pointed question is whether the attention of the Government had not been drawn to the article in the daily Mathrubhumi referred to in clause (a). I had, through my question drawn the attention of Government to the whole article and requested the Government to look into the article. I have a purpose in asking the Government whether attention of the Government has not been drawn as to the place from which this article is contributed. Whether it is not Ernakulam the Head Quarters of our State.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammed Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* I answered the Government have taken notice of the article generally though not with special reference as to wherefrom it emanated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is the Government aware that it was from Ernakulam, I want an answer.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammed Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* It is malayalam. I want notice please. *(Laughter).*

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is not the Government of Cochin in possession of an almanac.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The Government of Cochin tells us that it is in Malayalam.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The article is headed Shornaur.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is that so? Then say so.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Government have refuted the statement. In that case, the Government ought to have published a Press Note that the article published by the "Mathrubhumi" was untrue.

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Khan Sahib Y. Muhammed Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: The subject matter really concerns the Madras Government also and the Cochin Government did not want to interfere in a matter involving the Madras Government too.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: The allegation ought to have been refuted as it is against the Cochin Police. The Government ought to have refuted it, that such a thing did not happen.

Mr. President: I do not think any Government could possibly undertake to refute any allegation which appears in the Press which is not quite accurate.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, it is not like any other allegation. It is the case of kidnapping of a very respectable gentleman, Dr. K. B. Menon, who has got a very high status in the political life of the country, it is a case of kidnapping of such a gentleman by the Cochin Police.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, I want to know whether the Government is not aware of the allegation, namely of the kidnapping by the Cochin Police of a respectable man.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: I stated in the written answer that the allegations are untrue as they exist in the paper "Mathrubhoomi." The Government have read the article as it appeared in the Mathrubhoomi.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Have the Government understood that the allegation mentioned amounts to kidnapping by a Police Officer of Cochin ?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Cmmissioner of Police)*: I have answered that the allegation is incorrect.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: My question is whether the Government has understood the allegation as one of kidnapping by the Police of Cochin of a respectable man.

Kahn Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Then the Government have not understood the Malayalam article properly.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Has the Government considered the allegation serious ?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: In as much as the allegation is not true, the Government has not taken a serious view of it.

Mr. K. T. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Who made the enquiry ?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: I made the enquiry myself.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I say what, the allegation is. I have got a copy of the article.

Mr. President: Order, order. We have no time to hear the article read. The time for questions and answers is almost up.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, I want to know whether on reading the article in question, the Government have understood the allegation to be one of kidnapping under the Penal Code of Cochin.

Mr. President: Order, order. That question has already been answered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: No, Sir.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: It does not amount to an offence of kidnapping.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Only one of the two inferences is possible, but I do not want to say it now.

FUEL—HIGH PRICE OF

38. Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) are Government aware that the price of firewood in Ernakulam Town has become very prohibitive ;

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